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# The LAKE CITY ELM



MEMBERS

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THE LAKE CITY NURSERIES  
Incorporated  
LAKE CITY, MINN.

## *The Lake City Elm*

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WE ARE now ready to introduce our new Elm which we have called the Lake City Elm. It is a type of the American Elm, and we found it growing outside the Lutheran Parsonage here at Lake City, Minnesota.

The tree is an upright, closely branched type, adapting itself splendidly to boulevard planting. It resembles in growth and habits, the Moline Elm, but excels this Elm on account of its hardiness and rough bark which prevents sunscald. The Moline and Vase Elm are both very susceptible to sunscald and therefore not adapted to this northern climate. A type of Elm such as the Lake City Elm needs no trimming. It presents a uniform appearance when planted as one tree is like the other. These trees are budded on the native American Elm seedling with a perfectly hardy root as well as trunk.

New introductions should always be carefully investigated before entirely trusted.

We realize this because we have ourselves been severely burned, so we have been very slow in pushing this Elm. We wanted to see how it acted under propagation.

It is now some ten years since we discovered it. During that time we have thoroughly tried it out in various localities. We make the following claims for it, based upon these trials:

It is hardy. Anywheres where the American Elm will grow the Lake City Elm will



*The Original Tree Growing at Lake City, Minn.*

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do. It is hardier than any other Elm sport introduced.

It will stand more drought than any other budded Elm.

In boulevard planting it will practically eliminate pruning expenses. The branches are grown very close to trunk; shoulders heavy and branches will not break down.

Its shape is very symmetrical. Reminds one of the Linden in the way its tops are formed. It is beautiful.

It will not sunscald. Heavy bark that tends to roughen up early.

It seems less susceptible to disease and insects than even the American Elm.

We echo Mr. Marshall's statement that it is the best Elm so far introduced.

In the "Parks and Recreation" magazine of September 1931 issue we find the following write-up on this tree:

"The Lake City Elm introduced by the Lake City Nurseries, Inc., Lake City, Minnesota, is a fastigiate type of the American Elm of unusual merit. Close, upright growth, small branches, it offers a guarantee against breaking down from sleet and storm and makes trimming unnecessary. It seems hardier than the Moline; has a tendency to bark roughening at an early date. It is not as

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susceptible to sunscald as the Moline. The tree is very symmetrical and should be of real value for boulevard planting. The parent tree is located at Lake City. It is about twenty years old; has never been trimmed and the shape as shown in the picture is entirely natural."

Mr. Leonard Barron in the "Country Life" of March, 1931, under his heading "Come Into the Garden" says:

"The Lake City Elm obviously differs from the Moline variety, and it is claimed that it has certain advantages that are adapted particularly well to the northern and trying climates. It is an upright, closely branched type, resembling the Moline Elm, and it is claimed that its peculiar bark is a protection against sunscald to which the Moline is subject in some situations and that has been my experience. I am not surprised that the Lake City Nurseries were attracted to this tree. For street tree planting the more compact, upright types are favored, if only for the reason that they require no pruning and trimming. Compactness is characteristic of the tree itself, and as in case with any particular variety, propagation must be done by budding on native seedling stock."

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We also print the following letters from people who have come into contact with the Lake City Elm:

Oct. 3, 1931.

Lake City Nurseries  
Lake City, Minn.

Gentlemen:

You have asked about my experience with the Lake City Elm. You recall that we purchased these from you at three different seasons. Out of each of these shipments some of them have been planted in Valley City and a portion along our nursery drive. We have also planted there Moline and Vase Elm and one or two other brands. We all like the Lake City Elm. It is certainly making a good showing thus far. I am glad to see you push it for we certainly need a strictly northern elm somewhat on the Moline type.

The Moline is not dependable with us. It seems to sun scald badly and go to pieces, but the Lake City Elm being a strictly northern Elm should give us just what we are after in a good Elm of formal type for street and lawn planting. We expect to continue the planting of this tree.

Very respectfully yours,

E. C. Hilborn, General Manager  
The Northwest Nursery Co.  
Valley City, North Dakota



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Oct. 6, 1931.

Lake City Nurseries, Inc.  
Lake City, Minn.

Gentlemen:

When we were at your nursery recently we were very favorably impressed by the tree you are growing under the name "Lake City" Elm. This being a native of Minnesota is hardy and it has the habit of growth that has long been sought in elm shade trees. I feel sure that your Lake City Elm will be the preferred variety as soon as it becomes known.

In appearance it is better than the Moline and has the great advantage that it is perfectly hardy. The original tree is a beauty and has unusually dense foliage.

Yours very truly,

C. H. Andrews  
The Andrews Nursery Co.  
Faribault, Minn.

Sept. 29, 1931.

The Lake City Nurseries, Inc.  
Lake City, Minn.

Gentlemen:

As you have requested, I am herewith submitting our experience with the use of the so-called Lake City Elm.

We have used these trees exclusively for street tree planting where uniformity in size and of shape in individuals was essential or desirable. I would say that of all of the various elm va-

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ieties or types which we have used, the Lake City Elm meets our requirements for street tree use better than any other.

This elm seems to make a slightly faster growth than the ordinary elm which, in this vicinity, is important due to our comparatively short growing season; also the trees all have a characteristically similar type of branching habit which we believe is advantageous in street tree planting.

As to the cost of maintenance, it has been somewhat less on pruning than that required on the common American Elm. This is due to the fact that all the branches tend to leave the trunk at an acute upward angle and for this reason the permanent skeleton of any given tree can be formed at an earlier date than on an American Elm whose branches sometimes tend to droop considerably and also that it is quite free from sucker growth. Although the Lake City Elm in Duluth seems to be no more resistant to insect attacks, than the other elms, it does, due to its fast growth, seem to outgrow its injuries sooner.

Although the Lake City Elm is possibly not as fast a grower as the Moline Elm, we have found it in our community, a more desirable street tree. Here the Moline Elm has a tendency to keep on growing too late into the Fall and of failing to mature its wood properly which results in the killing back of the top to some extent. The Moline Elm is also smoother barked and for that reason the trunk has a great tendency to frost crack and sunscald in this climate.

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Trusting that this information will be of interest to you as a grower, I am,

Yours very truly,

Harry L. Staves,  
Landscape Engineer  
The Park Department  
Duluth, Minnesota

Oct. 23rd, 1931.

The Lake City Nurseries  
Lake City, Minn.

Gentlemen:

Now as to the Lake City Elm, as you remember, I took note of the comparison as to their drought resistance, with the Moline and also the American or common Elm. And as you remember, they seemed to be suffering less than any others. You also well remember, I am sure, that you got the hardest jolt by dry weather last year, that you had ever experienced in the many years you have been connected with the nursery business. I observed the original tree on the streets in Lake City and will say that it is a tree to be admired, uniform, upright growth, yet with sufficient spread to render it a valuable shade tree. I would consider it very much more valuable than the common Elm and possibly the most valuable of any of the budded varieties that have as yet been brought out.

Yours very truly,

George A. Marshall  
The Marshalls Nurseries  
Arlington, Nebr.

## *The Lake City Elm*

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*A Young Lake City Elm*

